

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, CO

SUBJECT: COLOMBIAN REACTION TO PANAMA MEETING OF THE LATIN
AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES
(GEPLACEA)

1. FOLLOWING IS A REPORT PREPARED BY AMCONSUL, CALI ON
THE FIFTH GEPLACEA MEETING.

2. RODRIGO ESCOBAR NAVIA, PRESIDENT OF THE ASOCIACION DE
CULTIVADORES DE CANA DE AZUCAR (ASOCANA), AND PRINCIPAL
COLOMBIAN DELEGATE AT THE JULY 5-9 MEETING AT PANAMA CITY
OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR
EXPORTING COUNTRIES (GEPLACEA), WAS CONTACTED RECENTLY
FOR HIS IMPRESSIONS ON THE PANAMA MEETING. DR. ESCOBAR,
WHO SERVED AS ONE OF THE VICE PRESIDENTS DURING THE
PANAMA MEETING, STATES THAT THE MEETING WAS PRIMARILY
DEVOTED TO (1) ANALYZING THE SUGAR MARKET, (2) UPDATING
SUGAR PRODUCTION STATISTICS OF THE PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES,
AND (3) SCHEDULING FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE GENERAL
AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEES. ACCORDING TO DR. ESCOBAR,
THERE WILL BE AT LEAST THREE MEETINGS OF THE TECHNICAL
COMMITTEES PRIOR TO THE NEXT GENERAL SESSION WHICH IS
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SCHEDULED FOR MARCH NEXT YEAR AT HAVANA. THE DELEGATES

FROM 23 COUNTRIES WHICH ATTENDED THE V GENERAL SESSION OF GEPLACEA AT PANAMA WERE AT A NOTABLY LOWER LEVEL THAN AT THE PRECEEDING CALI MEETING, PROBABLY BECAUSE THE AGENDA WAS OF A GENERALLY TECHNICAL NATURE, NOT REQUIRING POLICY DECISIONS. DR. ESCOBAR BELIEVES THE MARCH MEETING AT HAVANA WILL BE ATTENDED, AT LEAST INITIALLY, BY HIGHER LEVEL REPRESENTATION, DUE IN PART TO CURIOSITY ON THE PART OF THE VARIOUS MINISTERS AND THE FACT THAT HAVANA WILL BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY TO CONSOLIDATE GEPLACEA POSITION PRIOR TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR GENEVA IN LATE APRIL, EARLY MAY 1977.

3. ASKED IF GEPLACEA WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A ROLE FOLLOWING THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, DR. ESCOBAR BELIEVES IT WILL BUT REDUCED TO MORE OR LDUS THAT OF CLEARING HOUSE FOR STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE PRODUCTION OF PARTICIPATING MEMBERS AND ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL WORLD SUGAR MARKET. HE CONSIDERS GEPLACEA'S PRIMARY ROLE HAS BEEN TO COALESCE THE POSITION OF THE TRTIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES PLUS THE PHILLIPINES, WITH OBSERVER STATUS, (WHICH TOGETHER ACCOUNT FOR 65 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S SUGAR AGREEMENT MEETING AT GENEVA.

4. A COPY OF THE FINAL DOCUMENT OF THE V AGREEMENT OF GEPLACEA IS BEING AIR POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT TODAY.
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